

WHAT MR. PROCTOR SAW

The Destitution of the Reconcentrados Horrified Him.

HIS VISIT TO MATANZAS

Three Cubans Die of Starvation in Senator Proctor's Presence in Five Minutes—Col. Parker Equally Moved by the Pitiable Sight—The Probable Report to the President.

Havana, via Key West, March 5.—Men, women and children by hundreds and thousands, dying in the streets, gnashing their teeth in pain on the hill-sides, in the huts of palm bark, lying in the temporary hospitals on bare cots of canvas where scores die every hour. These are a few of the things seen by Senator Proctor and Col. Parker since coming here.

A party including the two gentlemen, Clara Barton and several members of the Red Cross Society left Havana a few days ago to investigate the condition of the reconcentrados at Matanzas and prepare for the immediate forwarding of supplies to save those that remain from the death by starvation that has already overtaken more than 10,000 Cubans during the last few months.

The trip from Havana to Matanzas, occupying about four hours, was made under a heavy escort of Spanish troops. At each end of the train was an armed car filled with soldiers. Evidence of the war were to be seen on all sides, block houses and entrenchments everywhere, and small scattering bodies of Spanish cavalry along the route. A few miles out of Havana the wires were cut in several places where the insurgents had dashed in to harass the enemy.

Mile after mile country as fertile as the valley of the Nile was passed through. All of it had been under cultivation in little farms. Now the fields and vineyards were left to the weeds, and the plows stood where they had been left in the furrow, covered with a rank tangled tropical undergrowth. Weeds filled the cane fields and ran riot over the patches that had furnished support for happy families now starving either in the towns or already lying under the red soil.

A few small towns were passed along the route. These were surrounded by trenches and barbed-wire fences. In the enclosures lay the reconcentrados starving. No supplies are furnished them. To step outside of the fence is to meet death by a Spanish bullet. In the small enclosure there is no room to grow anything but the weeds that grow from the door. They must die of starvation as inevitably as the sun rises and sets.

In the town of Matanzas alone 5,000 have died in the past two months, all of starvation. A majority of those in the hospital now will die inside of a week and their places filled with other unfortunate.

Matanzas is not the worst of the suburban towns. All over the island except where General Linares, the Spanish chief, has his headquarters, the victims of Spanish cruelty are dying by hundreds and thousands. Pinar del Rio is said to be far worse than Matanzas.

The senator's party is shocked at what was disclosed at Matanzas. In one of the hospitals three patients died of starvation in five minutes Senator Proctor was there.

Senator Proctor is satisfied that the government on the island is incompetent to protect even the reconcentrados of Havana, who seek to travel to other Cuban cities. He says he will not attempt another journey away from Havana.

Colonel Parker does not hesitate to make one trip out of Havana has convinced him that Cuba is already lost to Spain.

When Colonel Parker was asked if he would report to the President, he said, significantly, that he would not do so, but he "would not answer for what Senator Proctor would do."

"If the American people," remarked Colonel Parker, "could see what I have seen, the Government would be forced to act. In a week we would have Havana under our hands, and its surrender would be a matter of only a few days, or a month at the outside."

I never understood the situation before," said Senator Proctor. "No imagination could bring up a picture of the sufferings endured by these people under the Spanish government. I hope to see it ended as soon as possible."

Title Table.
Today—Low tide, 5:36 a. m. and 5:22 p. m.; high tide, 11:20 a. m. and 5:22 p. m.

Condition of the Water.
Temperature and condition of the water at 5 a. m.: Great Falls—Temperature, 52; condition, 2. Reservoir—Temperature, 52; condition at north connection, 2; condition at south connection, 2. Distributing reservoir—Temperature, 52; condition at influent gateways, 2; effluent gateways, 2.

City Lights.
Gas lamps are lighted at 7:36 p. m.; extinguishing begins at 8:22 a. m. The lighting is begun one hour before the hour named. Arc lights are lighted at 6:31 p. m.; extinguishing at 5:48 a. m.

The Heart Must Not Be Trifled With.—Where there are symptoms of heart weakness, there should be Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart. It is a magical remedy, gives relief in thirty minutes, and there are thousands who testify that it cures permanently. Mrs. T. R. Rundle, of Dundalk, Ont., says: "I was for years unable to attend to my household duties. I used Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart, the result was wonderful. The pain left me immediately after the first dose, and a few bottles cured." For sale by F. S. Williams, Ninth and P Streets, and Edmunds & Williams, Third and Pennsylvania Avenue—31.

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Our Guarantee for 1898

Is no mere idle boast. It is worth studying. WE GUARANTEE—that there is no better bicycle built in the world, either in regard to material, workmanship, design or finish;

- That no wheel runs more easily;
- That no wheel is so little in the repair shop;
- That no better tires or saddles can be bought than you find on Sterlings. You have your choice of all makes regardless of cost.

The MORSE ROLLER-BEARING CHAIN is used and is the only chain guaranteed not to stretch over 1/4 inch in a whole season's use.

Call and examine the Sterling and you will be convinced that it is the wheel for you.

Road wheels, \$60.00 and \$75.00.

Carpenter Cycle Co.,
Telephone 2015-4. S. W. Cor. 14th St. and N. Y. Ave.

A 'POSSUM HUNT.

The Animal Was Chased and Caught in the Capitol Grounds.

There was a genuine, old-fashioned 'possum hunt in the sacred precincts of the Capitol grounds last night indulged in by a number of young boys and men residing in that vicinity. In returning home rather late, a couple of residents of "The Hill" noticed what appeared to be a big rat skinned across B Street south of the Capitol grounds. The gentlemen clutched each other simultaneously and when the Brobdingnagian rat mounted the coping, he turned around and grinned at the two gentlemen and disappeared into the Capitol grounds, both gave a sigh of relief.

"Did you see it?" asked the first.

"I should think so," said the other, grasping his friend by the hand. "But I was afraid you didn't see it."

"Same case here. But say, talking about snakes—um—well, I'm glad I'm not a woman."

The two started forward and had come but a few steps when they noticed the animal that had startled them, looking along in front of them in a friendly way. Both stopped. They remained standing for a few moments while the 'possum played about until an old colored man, leaning on a stout stick, came hobbling up the hill. They waited patiently his side and when he reached them he scaped his right foot respectfully, giving his white hair a little tug with his right hand and then proceeded to pass them.

"Watch out for that big rat old man," said number one.

The old man looked in the direction number two pointed and saw the 'possum playing under the electric light.

"Rat?" he almost screamed. "Lord, child, dat am de fattest 'possum I evah see in dis yer town. Watch me kotch him," and forgetting his rheumatism and "miserable" the old man clutched his stick and cautiously approached the unsuspecting 'possum.

The two friends joined in the hunt and as the 'possum bounded into the Capitol grounds the three started in full cry on his heels. The 'possum ran and dodged, but his pursuers, now numbering some three thousand and six, for the "Hill Boys" had heard the noise and joined in the chase, were close upon him. Finally, the 'possum, more agile than the rest, got the 'possum started in a straight stretch where he did not have to be shaken out of every sapling and bush, and the 'possum, more agile than the rest, got the 'possum started in a straight stretch where he did not have to be shaken out of every sapling and bush, and the 'possum, more agile than the rest, got the 'possum started in a straight stretch where he did not have to be shaken out of every sapling and bush.

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